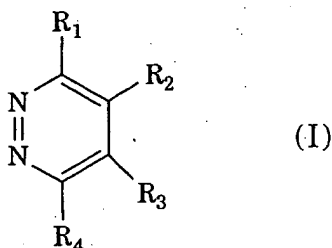


ABSTRACT

Disclosed are compounds of the formula (I) and pharmaceutically
5 acceptable salts thereof:



wherein

- 10 R_1 is a halogen, or an oxygen linked leaving group including an aromatic ether, an alkyl sulfonate, an aryl sulfonate, an alkyl phosphonate, an aryl phosphonate, an alkyl phosphate or aryl phosphate;
- R_2 is COOR_5 , $\text{C}(=\text{O})\text{NH}(\text{CHR}_5)_m\text{-COOR}_5$, $\text{NH}(\text{CHR}_5)_m\text{CON}(\text{R}_5)\text{R}_6$,
15 $\text{C}(=\text{O})\text{N}(\text{R}_5)\text{R}_6$ or $\text{NH}(\text{CHR}_5)_m\text{OH}$;
- R_3 is H or alkyl;
- R_4 is H, substituted or unsubstituted aryl, heteroaryl or alkyl;
- R_5 and R_6 are independently H, lower alkyl, aryl, hydroxy alkyl, amino alkyl, heteroaryl, lower alkylene-aryl, lower alkylene-
- 20 heteroaryl or lower cycloalkyl; and $m = 0-6$; pharmaceutical compositions containing the compounds; and a method for inhibiting interleukin- 1β protease activity in a mammal utilizing the compounds and compositions.